

prosperity. He viewed peace negotiation as a necessity to secure Israel's future in the Middle East, putting aside whatever personal remembrances he may have carried from his days as a soldier. The pinnacle of his career was witnessed by millions of people on September 13, 1993, when he and Yasir Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn after the signing of the Declaration of Principles. On that day, he spoke words meant for Israel's Arab enemies but now tragically apply to fellow Israelis, "We are today giving peace a chance—and saying to you and saying again to you: enough. Let us pray that a day will come when we all will say farewell to the arms."

#### TRIBUTE TO PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like so many of my colleagues, I want to rise today and pay tribute to the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who lost his life in the name of peace this past Saturday in Tel Aviv.

Many of us have spent the last several days mourning the loss of a great man—not only for Israel but also for the world. On Monday, Kings, Presidents and Princes gathered in Jerusalem to pay tribute to this finest of leaders—the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. But as I listened to the statements of praise and honor, I was struck most by the words of his granddaughter, who spoke of his place in Heaven more than his place in history. "Grandfather," she said, "may the God of Israel that keeps over all of us keep you in Heaven, as you merit."

Heaven now cradles the man who spent his life fighting wars and waging peace on behalf of the great nation of Israel. And so it is left to those of us still living to carry his torch—that "pillar of fire" described by his granddaughter, that lit a path toward peace few thought possible. Yitzhak Rabin, we will miss your vision and courage. But we will not let the message of your life be lost. Today it falls to each of us, citizens and leaders of all nations, to guarantee that your legacy of peace is fully realized.

Yitzhak Rabin was trusted by Israelis first for his military knowledge, and later for his political leadership. He has been a central actor in his nation's history since its founding in 1948, leading his country through times of war and peace. His was truly a remarkable life, held together by a singular, unwavering commitment to the security of Israel.

Yitzhak Rabin once said that he worked to end the hostilities in the region so that his children and his children's children would no longer "experience the painful cost of war." Today, on behalf of Yitzhak Rabin's granddaughter and all the children of Israel, we must not ask if the Middle East peace process can survive, but rather, how. We must devote ourselves to that goal with unity and courage.

For my part, my commitment to ensuring a strong and secure Israel remains steadfast. As always, Israel has a true and lasting friend in the United States. Since its founding, the American people have stood by Israel in the search for peace and stability. Today, as Israeli citizens mourn, we stand by our friend. In the months ahead, we will stand by Israel's side as that nation heals, and as it finds the courage to take the next step toward peace.

Shalom, Yitzhak Rabin. We praise your life and the gifts you gave to Israel and the world community.

#### CONDOLENCES TO ISRAEL

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to add my voice to those that have been raised all over the world to say how sad we are today to have lost a great leader in the peace process in the Middle East. I, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, have met with Prime Minister Rabin, and I, like so many others who have spoken for the last few days, had great respect for him.

I want to say at a time like this, you look to your friendships for support and comfort. Clearly, America is there for the support and comfort of our friend, our ally, and our strong, strong compatriot, the State of Israel. We are there to make sure that we get through this testing period strong in body together.

Mr. President, I think as I look back on the events of the last few days, what struck me the most is how far the leadership of Prime Minister Rabin, along with his predecessors, brought us. The funeral itself would never have happened in our dreams. We would never have seen the President of Egypt, the King of Jordan, and even the good wishes of the PLO chief, coming together to say we are able to speak in one voice that this should not have happened, that we want to seek peace. I think now everyone believes that peace is achievable in the Middle East. That could not have happened 10 years ago.

Just seeing what we saw at the funeral yesterday makes us realize how far we have come. It makes us miss all the more the leadership that Prime Minister Rabin has given in this country for so long, first as a military spokesman, a military strategist, a hard-liner, if you will.

The Prime Minister saw how the strength of Israel was one and how the strength of Israel could be made to continue and endure into the future generations. I think he saw that peace was the answer that they had come to where they were by sheer grit and sheer determination. But he saw that it took more to have a lasting place in the Middle East, and he was coming around to bringing the people of Israel with him.

So I add my voice and say that my condolences go to the people of Israel, to Prime Minister Rabin's widow, and

just say that the comfort that is there in seeing the funeral for the fallen leader of Israel and the diversity of people from around the world, leaders of country, who came to pay their respects, said more than anything else, that we are at the cusp of a time when we will see peace in the Middle East.

I just want to reiterate this Senator's strong position, that America will be there, hand-in-hand with our friends, to make sure that Prime Minister Rabin's dreams will not die. They will be carried on by his successors in office and by the future generations of leaders of Israel.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair will inform the Senator we are scheduled, under previous consent, to be in recess at 12:30.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be yielded 5 minutes or a short period of time thereafter, and under that unanimous-consent request the 12:30 hour for recess be set aside temporarily, so that I might finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nebraska.

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address the shocking loss to the world caused by the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, the beloved Prime Minister of our friend, the State of Israel. I have heard several of my colleagues' remarks on the sadness of this moment, the terrible loss that we feel here in the United States and the terrible situation that is going on inside the State of Israel today; people obviously in dismay and disbelief. This is a very, very sad event.

I have listened with great interest this morning to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Minnesota. I simply say he said everything so well, I think it will suffice to say that I wish to associate myself with the remarks by Senator WELLSTONE on the floor of the Senate earlier today. He summed it up so very, very well that I cannot add to it.

Those of us who had our lives touched by Prime Minister Rabin, those of us who knew him, those of us who were with him, those of us who listened to his sound advice with regard to world leadership for peace over the years, feel a terrible loss. Our hearts go out to his family, to his constituents in the State of Israel, where he led so courageously and so bravely.

A true warrior of peace has been struck down. We all should recognize